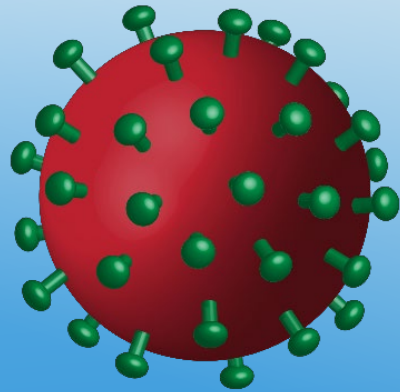


HIV and AIDS: What's the Difference?

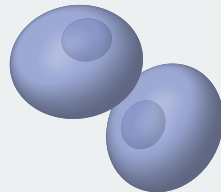
HIV

- HIV is the virus that causes HIV infection.
- HIV damages the immune system by killing CD4 cells.



CD4 Cells

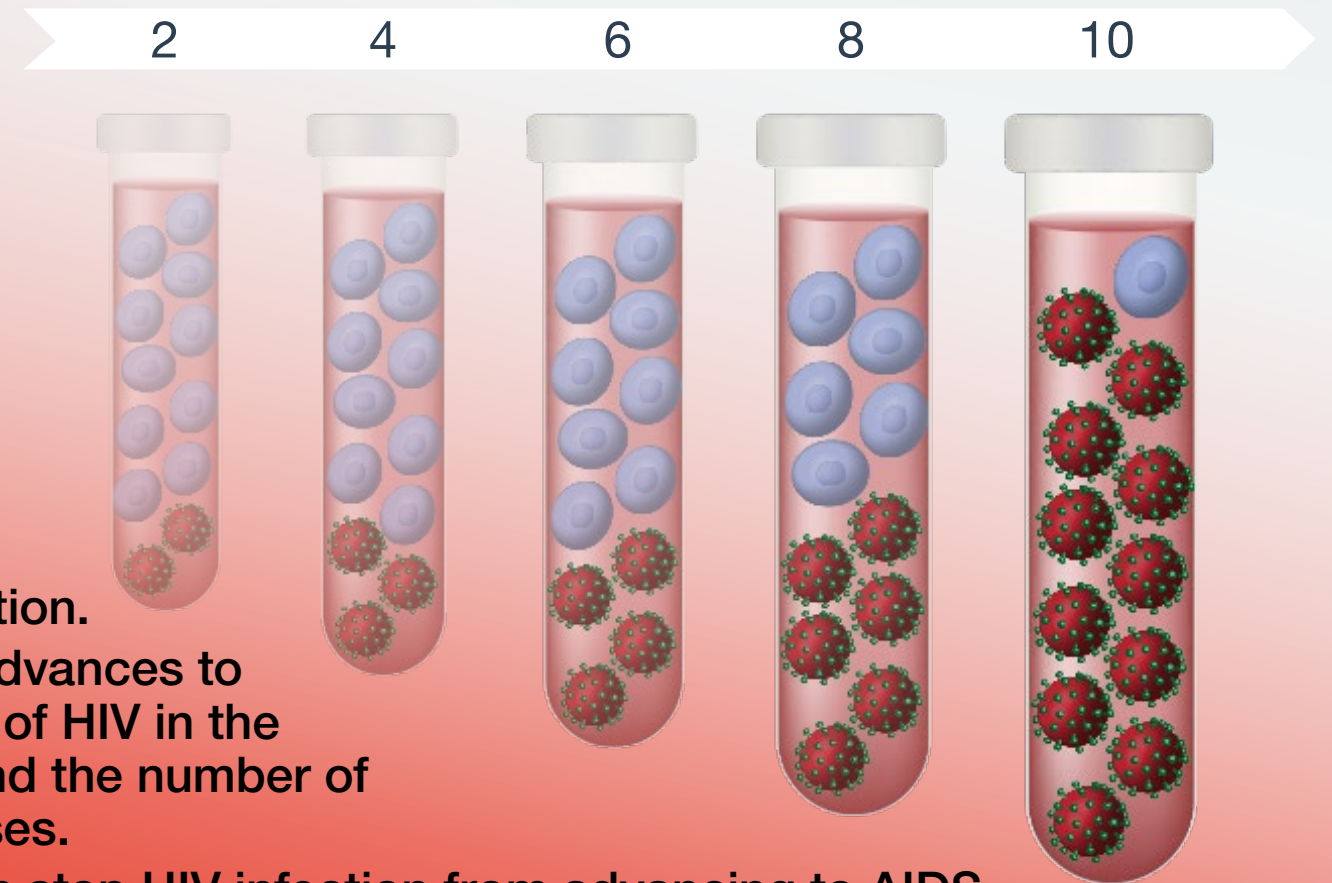
- CD4 cells are part of the immune system.
- HIV attacks and kills CD4 cells.
- Loss of CD4 cells makes it hard for the body to fight off infections.



AIDS

- AIDS is the last stage of HIV infection.
- As HIV infection advances to AIDS, the amount of HIV in the body increases and the number of CD4 cells decreases.
- HIV medicines can stop HIV infection from advancing to AIDS.
- Without HIV medicines, HIV advances to AIDS in about 10 years.
- ART (Antiretroviral treatment) can prevent HIV from spreading, and prevent HIV from advancing to AIDS.

Years without HIV medicines



For more information, visit HIVinfo.NIH.gov.